

Message Text

SECRET

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70

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 192033Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6209

S E C R E T SAN SALVADOR 3304

EXDIS

EO 11652: XGDS-1 DECLASS INDETERMINABLE

TAGS: PFOR ES HO

SUBJ: HONDURAS-SALVADOR DISPUTE

REF: (A) TEGUCIGALPA 3412 AND (B) TEGUCIGALPA 3476

1. WE NOTED IN REFERENCE A THAT FONMIN BATRES HAD LEARNED THAT DISSIDENT HONDURAN POLITICAL PARTIES WERE PLANNING TO DISCREDIT NEW ROUND OF TALKS WITH SALVADOR BY RECOURSE TO "OLD LINE" THAT DE FACTO GOH LACKED CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY TO RATIFY ANY NEW BORDER ARRANGEMENT. REFTEL B RECORTS FIRST ROUND OF SUCH PROPAGANDA. BATRES ALSO " EXPRESSED APPREHENSION THAT THIS TYPE OF PROPAGANDA MIGHT NEGATIVELY AFFECT THE SALVADORAN NEGOTIATORS BY GIVING THEM THE IMPRESSION THAT THERE WAS NO

NATIONAL BACKING FOR GOH ON THIS ISSUE."

2. THIS "OLD LINE"OF THE DISSIDENT HONDURAN OPPOSITION PARTIES HAS LONG BEEN WELL KNOWN TO SALVADORAN OFFICIALS. I RECALL A CONVERSATION WHICH AMBASSADOR CAMPBELL AND I HAD WITH FOMIN BORGONOVO IN JUNE 1974 WHEN HE INTRODUCED THIS SUBJECT AND GAVE US A COPY OF AN EDITORIAL WHICH HAD APPEARED IN THE HONDURAN

NEWSPAPER LA PRENJA ON JUNE 13, ON BEHALF OF THE LIBERAL AND NACIONAL PARTIES. THIS EDITORIAL ARGUED THAT THE PERMANENT SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM WITH EL SALVADOR "IS NOT THE COMPETENCE OF A DE FACTO REGIME BUT EXCLUSIVELY THAT OF A CONSTITUTIONAL

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GOVERNMENT." BORGONOVO HASTENED TO EXPLAIN THAT NEIGHER HE NOR THE

GOES WAS
INTERESTED IN EXPLOITING THE FOREGOING ARGUMENT OR ANY OTHER
PRETEXT FOR EVADING A JUST SETTLEMENT OF ITS DISPUTE
WITH HONDURAS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. ON THE CONTRARY, HE ASSURED
US AT THAT TIME, THE GOES LEADERSHIP WAS EARNESTLY INTERESTED IN
ACHIEVING A SOLUTION; AND HE WOULD PRESS AHEAD TOWARD THIS
OBJECTIVE IN THE COMING WEEKS. THE DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THEN
HAVE TENDED TO BEAR HIM OUT. HE LEFT US WITH THE IMPRESSION
THAT THE NEGOTIATION OF A SETTLEMENT IS THE JOINT BUSINESS OF THE
GOES AND GOH; BUT THAT THE RATIFICATION OF ANY NEGOTIATED
SETTLEMENT IS THE EXCLUSIVE CONCERN OF EACH OF THESE GOVERNMENTS
AND HE HAD NO INTENTION OF QUESTIONING THE COMPETENCE OF THE
LOPEZ GOVERNMENT EITHER TO NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT OR TO RATIFY IT.

3. IF IT WOULD BE DEEMED USEFUL BY EMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA AS A
MEANS OF EASING BATRES'S APPREHENSIONS ON THIS PARTICULAR POINT,
WE WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO BATRES BEING INFORMED OF THE
FOREGOING AS EVIDENCE OF GOES GOOD FAITH IN THE CURRENT
NEGOTIATIONS.

MOSKOWITZ

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROPAGANDA, PRESS COMMENTS, DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, BOUNDARY CLAIMS, NEGOTIATIONS, OPPOSITION PARTIES, PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SANSAA03304
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1 S INDETERMINABLE
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740228-0504
From: SAN SALVADOR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740836/aaaabeyptel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: (A) TEGUCIGALPA 3412 AND (B) TEGUCIG, ALPA 3476
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 SEP 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HONDURAS-SALVADOR DISPUTE
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, ES, HO, NATIONALIST PARTY
To: TEGUCIGALPA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005